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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

DATE DISTR. 23 October 1951

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT The Cer Manganese Mine

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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1. The Cer Manganese Mine is located southeast of the town of Kicevo, which is on the northern part of Baba Planina (mountain) at an altitude of 1,300 meters above sea level.
2. The annual mine production of about 8000 tons of ore is transported to the Sibenik Foundry which is equipped with electric furnaces. From Sibenik, the manganese is in part sent to domestic factories and in part exported. Because the mines are scattered, mining conditions and the transport of the ore present difficulties. Workers' tools are primitive and there is no mechanization.
3. Personnel at the mine includes thirty officials, of whom seven are Party members, and approximately 750 miners, of whom 55 are Party members. The following officials are known:

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Director

- Milan Boroevski

Substitute Director

- Ciro Popovski

Secretary

- Djerko Djordjovski

Chief Engineer

- Engineer M. Dolenc

4. [redacted] despite the fact that this is one of Yugoslavia's largest manganese mines, it has no great future inasmuch as the ore reserve is small. Up to the present, exploring teams have found new ore traces but not in any large quantity.

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Comment: The newspaper Borba on 13 June 1950 and Politika on 23 June 1950 carried articles generally confirming this report. The mine has eight pits from which the mineral is transported by truck to Kicevo where it is loaded on railroad cars. Since the road is poor, measures have been undertaken to construct a new road leading from Cer Village to Kicevo and, in this connection, a 1000-meter tunnel is being dug. When completed, the mineral will be transported in a mining train to Cer and from Cer by truck to Kicevo. Exploration crews are constantly working in this area and, according to Politika, they were successful in locating small layers of manganese ore as well as large layers of iron ore.

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